United Nations S/PRST/2008/9

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 April 2008

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5869th meeting of the Security Council, held on 17 April 2008, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Cyprus", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council warmly welcomes the agreement reached on 21 March 2008 by the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders and commends them for the political leadership they have shown.

"The Security Council is encouraged by the launch of the Working Groups and the Technical Committees that will prepare the ground for the start of fully fledged negotiations, in a spirit of good faith, on a comprehensive and durable settlement under the auspices of the Secretary-General's Good Offices Mission. The Security Council looks forward to the results of this preparatory process within the three-month timeline agreed by the two leaders, which it is hoped will build trust, momentum and a sense of common interest in the search for a just and lasting solution.

"The Security Council further welcomes the opening of the Ledra Street crossing, as an indication of political will to tackle issues that have obstructed progress, and an important signal that both sides seek to improve the lives of all Cypriots. The Security Council looks forward to further such confidence building measures.

"The Security Council reaffirms its commitment to the reunification of Cyprus based on a bicommunal, bizonal federation and political equality, as set out in the relevant Security Council resolutions, and its willingness to support the efforts of the Secretary-General to this end. In this context, the Security Council welcomes the readiness of the Secretary-General to assist the parties in Cyprus, and further welcomes the prospect of the appointment, after the completion of the preparatory period and based on progress, of a Special Advisor to facilitate movement towards a comprehensive settlement.

"The Security Council welcomes the appointment of Tayé-Brook Zerihoun as the Secretary-General's new Special Representative to Cyprus, and expresses its appreciation for the work of the previous Special Representative, Michael Moller."

08-30959 (E) 170408